

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-captioned application as amended.

In this amendment, claims 1-38 remain pending. Claims 2, 6, 9, 11, 15, 18, 22, 24, 31, 37 and 38 have been amended to remove certain minor typographical and editorial errors. These claims are fully supported by the specification, and no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 6, 10, 13, 18, 21, and 25 are the independent claims.

In response to the restriction requirement in the Office Action, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I: claims 1-9, 18-30, 36 and 38, with traverse.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any fee is due for this filing, please charge the LARGE ENTITY fee therefor to Deposit Account No. 16-2500 of the undersigned.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (212) 969-3314 or by facsimile at (212) 969-2900. Please direct all correspondence to Customer No. 21890 at the address provided below.

Respectfully submitted  
PROSKAUER ROSE LLP  
Attorneys for Applicants

Date: January 6, 2005

PROSKAUER ROSE LLP  
1585 Broadway  
New York, NY 10036

Tel: (212) 969-3000

By Abigail Cousins  
Abigail F. Cousins  
Reg. No. 29,292